



WEEKLY UPDATE – FEBRUARY 25, 2010

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INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

GALLAUDET SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Please see the information below regarding a scholarship opportunity for those interested in pursuing an MSW at Gallaudet University in order to become a school social worker with students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. This program is not sponsored or funded by the Early Steps and the dissemination of this information should not be construed as an endorsement of the program at Gallaudet.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SPECIALIZATION

The MSW Program in the Department of Social Work at Gallaudet University is happy to announce that it has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for "Training School Social Workers to Meet the Educational and Emotional Needs of Diverse Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children." Graduate students in the School Social Work specialization will learn to work with diverse groups of deaf and hard of hearing children in educational programs throughout the United States. Each school social work trainee will receive 1/2 tuition waiver and a generous stipend. During the first year of the program, students are involved in an internship two days a week. The final semester includes a "block" internship that can be done anywhere in the country. Students must first be accepted to the MSW program, and then may apply to the School of Social Work specialization track and the grant. Applications are now being accepted for academic year 2010-2011. For more information please visit:

http://socialwork.gallaudet.edu/Social_Work/MSW_Program/School_Social_Work_Grant/About_The_Grant.html

or contact <mailto:Beth.Betman@gallaudet.edu>
or <mailto:Martha.Sheridan@gallaudet.edu>

You may apply online at: <http://aaweb.gallaudet.edu/GradAdmissions.xml>

IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND REFERRALS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM A NATIONAL PROJECT

In 2006, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released a policy statement on developmental surveillance and screening that included an algorithm to help pediatric practices implement the new recommendations. Recent findings from a pilot project show that although doctors screened more children for developmental delays after the policy statement was issued, they **did not** consistently refer children suspected of having delays to early intervention programs. Read the full article at the link below.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/peds.2009-0388v1>

NEW HYPERLINK FOR EARLY STEPS WEBSITE

The CMS website has been updated and Early Steps State Office now has a new hyperlink address. Please use the following address to update your local Early Steps website:

http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/early_steps.html

TEXT 4 BABY INFORMATION SERVICE

The National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) announces text4baby, a free mobile information service that provides pregnant women and new moms with information to help them care for their health and give their babies the best possible start in life.

Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411 (or BEBE for Spanish) will receive free text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth. The messages focus on a variety of topics critical to maternal and child health, including birth defects prevention, immunization, nutrition, seasonal flu, mental health, oral health, and safe sleep. Text4baby messages also connect women to prenatal and infant care services and other resources.

The Florida Department of Health's Infant, Maternal, and Reproductive Health Unit encourage your participation in promoting text4baby.

What can you do to promote text4baby?

- Encourage the women you reach to sign up for the service.
- Add text4baby information to your website.
- Include text4baby information in your mailings, listserv, or newsletter.

- Display text4baby posters in your facilities.
- Promote text4baby through public health or wellness campaigns.
- Be creative and innovative to spread the word.

Text4baby downloadable promotional materials are available at:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/mch/text4baby/text4baby.html> More information is available at www.text4baby.org

REMINDER REGARDING PROHIBITION AGAINST LOBBYING (With Attachment)

Lobbying by Early Steps State Office (ESSO) and Local Early Steps (LES) employees is prohibited by Florida Statute 11.061. ESSO and LES employees may only provide information to a member or employee of the Legislature. Educating is acceptable as long as there is no attempt to affect the outcome of the legislative process. Violations of the prohibition of lobbying may incur the following penalties:

- Under Florida statute 11.061, the hourly wage is deducted from the salary of any state employee (or employee of a state contractor) who is not a registered lobbyist for the time spent lobbying.
- Under Florida Statute 11.062, the cost of state supplies used is deducted from salary and the violation may also be investigated by the Commission on Ethics.
- Aside from the statutory penalties, violations would incur personnel action, ranging from counseling to dismissal.

An ESSO or LES employee may contact her or his legislator or legislative staff regarding any matter during hours *other than* the established business hours of the person's respective agency or program. The contract attachment regarding this is attached as a refresher.

NECTAC NEWS

For the current issue of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>